

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

March 4, 2002  
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Degginger, Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Lee, Mosher, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to executive session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss two items of potential litigation. At 6:42 p.m., the meeting resumed with Mayor Marshall presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Eastgate Park and Ride Lot Expansion Update

Transportation Director Goran Sparrman described plans to expand the Eastgate Park and Ride Lot, which is one of the most heavily used park and ride facilities in the Puget Sound region. Expansion was originally proposed in 1997 when King County announced a plan to add 4,500 to 5,000 parking spaces to the Eastgate Park and Ride Lot. In 1999, Bellevue expressed concern about the expansion plans and noted the demand for park and ride facilities throughout the entire I-90 corridor. As a result, King County studied the corridor and looked for the best way to locate park and ride facilities in order to intercept trips as far east as possible. In February 2000, Bellevue City Council expressed support for the proposed expansion of the Eastgate lot but asked the County to address traffic impacts, compatible neighborhood design, and the need for public involvement. Plans were further complicated by a proposed Sound Transit direct access project adjacent to the Eastgate Park and Ride lot. Issues included air quality and establishing a temporary lot during construction of the park and ride expansion project.

Jim Murray, King County Metro, described planned park and ride projects along the I-90 corridor including a Sound Transit project to expand the Mercer Island Park and Ride Lot and a King County Metro project on the Issaquah Highlands. Metro continues to look for a suitable site near North Bend as well.

Mr. Murray described the development of the preferred alternative for the Eastgate expansion project. Preferred alternative features include:

- Single platform with a canopy
- Kiss ‘n Ride drop off zone
- Improved ADA access
- Updated landscaping
- 1,400-stall parking structure
- 1,700 total parking spaces on site
- Access from both 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and Eastgate Way
- Signalized intersection
- Future direct access ramp service
- Potential for future expansion.

The parking garage will be designed as an open structure with open stairwells to enhance safety and visibility. The layout of the site will provide quick access from 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and Eastgate Way and separate bus and car areas. Upgraded landscaping will provide a streetscape along Eastgate Way in accordance with City standards as well as interior trees, shrubs, and ground cover. Landscaping will be provided around the pond and artwork is planned for the site. The five-story parking garage will have a connected canopy, glass elevators, and stairs on all four corners. A pedestrian overpass will link to 147<sup>th</sup> Avenue and enhance access to Bellevue Community College. Environmental issues include storm water drainage at both the expansion site and the temporary park and ride site, traffic mitigation, and air quality. The temporary site, to be located just west of the permanent site on Eastgate Way, will provide 550 parking stalls while 150 stalls will be maintained at the permanent site by phasing expansion construction.

Mr. Murray said development of the preferred alternative involved community outreach activities including a newsletter, survey, Community Advisory Group, open houses, and the creation of a project web site. Metro is in the final weeks of the permitting process and construction will begin at the temporary park and ride site in May. Construction of the expansion project will begin in the fall and is expected to take one year to complete. Mr. Murray said the project is fully funded in the King County budget at an estimated cost of \$33 million.

Mr. Lee encouraged expansion of the Issaquah Park and Ride Lot, along with plans to add the new Issaquah Highlands Park and Ride. He is extremely concerned about the need for increased park and ride capacity along I-90 and does not want Bellevue to have the only lots on the Eastside. Mayor Marshall noted that Metro is working to locate suitable land for increasing park and ride capacity in Issaquah. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Sparman described delays in Sound Transit’s direct access project. However, Sound Transit still plans to complete the project by 2005. Noting King County’s budget crisis, Mr. Lee questioned maintenance and operations funding for landscaping at the expanded Eastgate facility. Mr. Murray assured him that Metro will maintain the landscaping at Eastgate Park and Ride. He said the project’s request for a Conditional Use Permit will be before Bellevue’s Hearing Examiner on March 21.<sup>1</sup>

In response to Mr. Creighton, Mr. Murray said the Issaquah Highlands Park and Ride project is scheduled for 2004 and the Mercer Island expansion is scheduled by Sound Transit for 2003-2004.

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<sup>1</sup> Underlined portions added at the request of Councilmember Lee and approved by Council on March 18, 2002.

Mr. Mosher is pleased with the enhanced access planned for the expanded Eastgate facility. He commented that Issaquah residents would like a park and ride lot on the plateau to mitigate traffic congestion.

Deputy Mayor Degginger questioned whether there will be efforts to prevent non-Park and Ride parking, particularly given the proximity to Bellevue Community College. Mr. Murray said Metro has service supervisors who conduct periodic enforcement of park and ride lots.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Mr. Murray said King County plans to expand the Factoria Transfer Station approximately a year after completion of the Eastgate Park and Ride expansion.

Mr. Noble suggested that additional parking capacity could be gained at the South Bellevue Park and Ride lot if it was re-striped to produce narrower aisles.

Mayor Marshall thanked Mr. Murray for working so well with City staff and the community.

(b) Proposed 2003-2004 Budget Process and Key Milestones

City Manager Steve Sarkozy opened the discussion of the proposed 2003-2004 budget process. He recalled Councilmembers' comments following the last budget process that they would like to be involved earlier in the process.

Interim Finance Director Gary Ameling said the guiding principle of the budget process is to provide an opportunity for Council, staff, and citizens to evaluate and request changes to City programs, service levels, and budget-related policies. He emphasized that the budget is the City's main policy document for the entire organization. One of staff's key goals is to achieve efficiencies and economies of scale through interdepartmental coordination.

Mr. Ameling explained a shift in the upcoming budget process to provide more information to Council earlier in the process. Staff proposes a series of Council study sessions beginning in April and continuing through June. A preliminary budget will be prepared in September/October and staff will return to Council in October/November for the budget review. Three public hearings are typically held in May and November. Budget adoption by Council is scheduled for early December.

Mike Sigsbee, Acting Assistant Finance Director, reviewed the list of Budget Review Items on pages SS 2-17 and SS 2-18 of the Council packet. Staff proposes more detailed discussions of the following areas: revenue policies, staffing levels, the use of consultants, and CIP allocation methodology. Mr. Sigsbee recalled staff's discussion with Council last year about general reserves and proposed a refresher review this year as part of the budget process. He noted that a Council reserve was established in the last budget cycle and suggested more discussion regarding the utilization and/or continuation of this reserve. An in-depth discussion of utility rates and reserves by Utilities Department staff is recommended. Additional items include budget planning to meet Council goals and priorities, Board and Commission roles, department service levels, debt/borrowing, major new projects/Council's audacious goals, community outreach, performance measures, and the budget prioritization process.

Mr. Mosher expressed an interest in the in-depth policy discussions proposed by staff.

Deputy Mayor Degginger said he would like to see more alternatives developed and presented to Council when projects and issues are discussed. He would like more information about the dynamics of reserve levels and debt/borrowing. He feels a discussion of service levels should include a review of performance measures. He is in favor of a discussion of Board and Commission roles, but he questioned whether it needs to occur within the context of the budget process.

Mr. Creighton is pleased with the proposed approach which he feels will provide more information to Council earlier in the process.

Mr. Lee feels there is a need to establish an overall, long-term policy vision. Mr. Ameling agreed and noted that Item 7 regarding budget planning to meet Council goals and objectives is intended to address this need.

Mayor Marshall concurred with Mr. Lee's suggestion. She emphasized the need to hold the public hearings earlier in the process. Mrs. Marshall asked the City Manager to prioritize the list of Budget Review Items. She thanked staff for the presentation and for listening to Council's comments following the last budget cycle.

3. Council Business [Regular Session Agenda Item 6]

Dr. Davidson attended a meeting of the Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8) Steering Committee.

Mr. Noble attended meetings of the HOV Lane Task Force and the Human Services Forum Executive Board.

Deputy Mayor Degginger attended a meeting of the Growth Management Planning Council Executive Committee, in which growth target allocations were discussed. The Eastside Subarea is expected to add 28,000-30,000 new households based on the proposed allocations. He also attended a presentation of the preferred alternative for the Newport Hills Shopping Center, which was well received by residents.

Dr. Davidson thanked staff for enhancing the temporary walkway on 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

At 7:56 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to the regular session.

Michelle Murphy  
Deputy City Clerk

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